



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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PURPOSE

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) is pleased to announce the availability of riparian buffer restoration grants for projects that will enhance water quality by restoring natural conditions in riparian areas. Riparian buffers are areas of land adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and coastal waters that is maintained in a natural vegetative condition and are integral to the ecology of natural systems. Funding for these grants is provided by the Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration Bond to restore and protect the water quality, enhance the economic viability and environmental sustainability of Narragansett Bay and the State's watersheds.

The grant application period extends from April 10 through June 12, 2006.

ELIGIBILITY AND ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Eligible parties include state, local and regional government agencies as well as nonprofit agencies and private individuals with appropriate administrative capacity.

The grants, which will provide up to 50 percent of eligible costs, will give financial assistance for projects for the re-establishment of native vegetation or other improvement projects that will establish or restore riparian habitats or enhance the overall quality of riparian buffers for water quality improvement/protection.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- cover letter stating the purpose of the project, expected water quality improvements, as well as other pertinent information
- grant application form
- map of the proposed restoration site
- project schedule and budget
- supporting materials and information

APPLICATION PROCESS

All project proposals must be received by DEM, Office of Water Resources no later than 4:00 p.m. on **June 12, 2006**.

A review team will rank the projects based on:

- the value of the resources to be protected or restored
- the public benefits of the project
- technical merits of the project
- consistency with plans, such as Community Comprehensive Plans or Watershed Action Plans.
- readiness to proceed

Awards will be announced by June 26, 2006 and development of grant agreements will follow. *(Projects should not be initiated until after grant agreements are approved as this may affect eligibility for funding).*

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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